

Status of and Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended): A composition for removing solubilized organics from a water-like fluid phase consisting essentially of:

a hydrophilic  $\alpha$ -hydroxymonocarboxylic acid (AHA); and  
an anionic polymer,

where the weight ratio of AHA to anionic polymer in the composition ranges from over 50:1 to 10,000 to 1.

2. (original): The composition of claim 1 where the AHA has a  $pK_a$  of greater than 3.8.

3. (original): The composition of claim 1 where the AHA has the structure  $RR'C(OH)COOH$  where

R and R' are independently selected from the group consisting of  
hydrogen and nonacidic hydrocarbonaceous groups,  
with the proviso that

$$n^H + 0.5(n^C) - 7(n^O) < 15(n^{OH})$$

where  $n^H$  = the total number of hydrogens on carbons,  
 $n^C$  = the total number of carbons,  
 $n^O$  = the total number of oxygens not attached to  
hydrogens, and  
 $n^{OH}$  = the total number of  $-OH$  groups in the molecule.

4. (original): The composition of claim 1 where the anionic polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(acrylic acid) and poly(methacrylic acid) and salts thereof, poly(acryl sulfonic acid) and poly(vinyl sulfonic acid) and salts thereof, and copolymers of the aforementioned polymers with acrylic amides and esters, and mixtures thereof.

5. (canceled)

6. (original): The composition of claim 1 where the anionic polymer has a degree of polymerization between 3000 and 300,000.

7. (previously presented): The composition of claim 3 where the anionic polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(acrylic acid) and poly(methacrylic acid) and salts thereof, poly(acryloyl sulfonic acid) and poly(vinyl sulfonic acid) and salts thereof, and copolymers of the aforementioned polymers with acrylic amides and esters, and mixtures thereof.

8-9. (canceled)

10. (original): A composition for removing solubilized organics from a water-like fluid phase consisting essentially of:

a hydrophilic  $\alpha$ -hydroxymonocarboxylic acid (AHA) having a degree of polymerization of above 30; and

an anionic polymer,

where the weight ratio of AHA to anionic polymer in the composition ranges from over 50:1 to 10,000 to 1.

11. (original): The composition of claim 10 where the AHA has a  $pK_a$  of greater than 3.8.

12. (original): The composition of claim 10 where the AHA has the structure  $RR'C(OH)COOH$  where

R and R' are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and nonacidic hydrocarbonaceous groups, with the proviso that

$$n^H + 0.5(n^C) - 7(n^O) < 15(n^{OH})$$

where  $n^H$  = the total number of hydrogens on carbons,  
 $n^C$  = the total number of carbons,  
 $n^O$  = the total number of oxygens not attached to hydrogens, and

$n^{\text{OH}}$  = the total number of -OH groups in the molecule.

13. (original): The composition of claim 10 where the anionic polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(acrylic acid) and poly(methacrylic acid) and salts thereof, poly(acroyl sulfonic acid) and poly(vinyl sulfonic acid) and salts thereof, and copolymers of the aforementioned polymers with acrylic amides and esters, and mixtures thereof.

14. (original): The composition of claim 10 where the anionic polymer has a degree of polymerization between 3000 and 300,000.

15. (currently amended): A composition comprising:

a water-like fluid phase;

at least one solubilized organic in the water-like fluid phase; and

a composition for removing solubilized organics from a water-like fluid

phase consisting essentially of:

an anionic polymer; and

a hydrophilic  $\alpha$ -hydroxymonocarboxylic acid (AHA),

where the weight ratio of AHA to anionic polymer in the composition ranges from over 50:1 to 10,000 to 1.

16. (original): The composition of claim 15 where the AHA has a  $\text{pK}_a$  of greater than 3.8.

17. (original): The composition of claim 15 where the AHA has the structure  $\text{RR}'\text{C}(\text{OH})\text{COOH}$  where

R and R' are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and nonacidic hydrocarbonaceous groups, with the proviso that

$$n^{\text{H}} + 0.5(n^{\text{C}}) - 7(n^{\text{O}}) < 15(n^{\text{OH}})$$

where  $n^{\text{H}}$  = the total number of hydrogens on carbons,

$n^{\text{C}}$  = the total number of carbons,

$n^O$  = the total number of oxygens not attached to  
hydrogens, and

$n^{OH}$  = the total number of -OH groups in the molecule.

18. (original): The composition of claim 15 where the anionic polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(acrylic acid) and poly(methacrylic acid) and salts thereof, poly(acrolyl sulfonic acid) and poly(vinyl sulfonic acid) and salts thereof, and copolymers of the aforementioned polymers with acrylic amides and esters, and mixtures thereof.